

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND

House Joint Resolution No. 32*

by deleting all language in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

A RESOLUTION to post-ratify Amendment 15 to the Constitution of the United States of America guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

WHEREAS, on February 26, 1869, the Fortieth Congress of the United States of America, at its third session, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of both Houses, submitted to the legislatures of the several states for ratification a proposal to amend the Constitution of the United States of America in the following words, to wit:

"AMENDMENT 15

"Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

"Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."; and

WHEREAS, by proclamation of federal Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, dated March 30, 1870 (16 Stat. 1131-2), this proposed amendment to the United States Constitution was officially declared to have been duly ratified by the legislatures of the constitutionally-required margin of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the several states, there being at the time 37 states in the Union; and

WHEREAS, after Amendment 15 had made its way into our Nation's highest law in early 1870, the legislatures of five other states which had been in the Union prior to its

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adoption--but which, like Tennessee, had not approved the amendment--post-ratified it, many years after 1870, as follows:

Delaware in 1901 (Senate Joint Resolution No. 13);

Oregon in 1959 (Senate Joint Resolution No. 7);

California in 1962 (Senate Joint Resolution No. 9);

Maryland in 1973 (Senate Joint Resolution No. 56);

Kentucky in 1976 (House [Joint] Resolution No. 75); and

WHEREAS, for the past 21 years, Tennessee has stood alone as the only state in the Union, both well before Amendment 15 was proposed and long after it was adopted, whose legislature has never placed its own unique imprimatur upon these fundamental two sentences of the United States Constitution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That Amendment 15 to the United States Constitution, quoted above, is hereby post-ratified by the Tennessee General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That House Joint Resolution No. 98 (Act "Number LXXX") of the Thirty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, in which Amendment 15 was rejected by the Tennessee House of Representatives and by the Tennessee Senate, be hereby revoked, repealed, and utterly rescinded.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a properly inscribed copy of this Resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of State of Tennessee to the Archivist of the United States, Washington, D.C., in compliance with Pub. L. 98-497.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That properly inscribed copies of this Resolution be individually transmitted by the Secretary of State of Tennessee to each of the following persons in Washington, D.C. with the respectful request that this Resolution be published in the Congressional Record:

the Vice-President of the United States, as presiding officer of the United States Senate;

the Parliamentarian of the United States Senate;

the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and

the Parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives.

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